



First District Association of Local Governments

124 1st Ave NW ■ PO Box 1207 ■ Watertown, SD 57201

Phone: (605) 882-5115 Fax: (605) 882-5049

Serving counties and communities for over 45 years

MEMO TO: First District County Commissions, City Councils, Town Boards

FROM: Todd A. Kays, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Kays", is written over the name "Todd A. Kays" in the "FROM" line.

DATE: December 1, 2016

RE: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The First District Association of Local Governments' mission, as adopted by its Governing Body, is to be an active voluntary council of local governments and community leaders working together to enhance the quality of life for the people in the First District region. One of the guiding principles in support of this mission statement is the promotion of community and economic development activities. Community and economic development is vital to the image and actual quality of life of our region. By working with the city and county governments in our region, as well as the local development corporations, and others, First District continues to seek development of new and expanded community and economic development opportunities.

The First District Association of Local Governments (First District) is currently in the process of updating its five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is a plan which is designed to bring together the public and private sectors within the First District in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen our regional economies. The CEDS will analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The last comprehensive update to the CEDS was completed in 2012 with annual reviews conducted by the First District Governing Body. I anticipate the completion and distribution of the CEDS update to occur in March 2017.

An integral component of the development of the CEDS is the regional development survey. I encourage all to respond to the survey as this will greatly assist First District Staff and the CEDS Committee in establishing background information and benchmarks for the CEDS update.

Regarding the survey, hopefully I have provided enough surveys for each elected board member and finance officer/auditor/administrator. It should only take 10 to 15 minutes to complete the survey. In responding to the survey each community/county may:

1. Combine all of the survey responses and send a single survey representing the elected board/finance officer/auditor/administrator responses; or
2. Select one individual to submit a response on behalf of the board/finance officer/auditor/administrator; or
3. Collect all responses from the elected board/finance officer/auditor/administrator responses and submit them.

Enclosed you will find a self addressed stamped envelope to return completed surveys. I would appreciate your response by **January 6, 2017**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your assistance in the endeavor.

2016 Community and Regional Economic Development Survey

This questionnaire is part of an effort to identify the community/economic development needs of northeastern South Dakota (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Moody and Roberts Counties). The survey is part of the First District Association of Local Governments' (First District) update to its 2012-2016 Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Information gathered from the survey will assist the First District Governing Body develop goals, strategies and a work plan to address the region's community and economic development needs and for the provision of quality services to the members of the First District.

Please answer each question based upon your personal perspective. The first section pertains to information about the survey respondent. The second part deals with issues/needs of your community or county. The final set of questions pertain to local community and economic development issues. Your cooperation will help us do a better job of assisting our members in making the region a better place to live and work. In the event you need additional survey forms please contact Suzie at the First District (605-882-5115 or toll free at 800-981-9092).

Please return completed surveys in the enclosed envelope by January 6, 2017 to:

First District Association of Local Governments
POB 124
Watertown, SD 57201

Or fax completed surveys to 605-882-5049

Or e-mail surveys to suzie@1stdistrict.org

Part 1: About You

1. Please note the sector you are representing in your answers (Please mark only one blank):

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> City/County Staff Person | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Council/Town Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Elected Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Business | |

2. Which community/county do you live in? _____

3. How many years have you lived in your community/county? _____

4. What is your age?

Under 18
 19 to 29
 30 to 39
 40 to 49
 50 to 64
 Over 65

Part 2: Your Community/County

1. How would you complete the following statements?

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) to recommend my community/county as a place to live.

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) to recommend my community/county as a place to visit.

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) to recommend my community/county as a place to start a business.

I am (___ Very Likely ___ Somewhat Likely ___ Not Likely) Consider relocating to another location other than my community/county.

2. When it comes to the availability and quality of infrastructure and community services, how would you rate the following?

| | Meets Our Needs | Improvements Are Necessary | Serious Problems Exist | Not Applicable |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water System | | | | |
| Sanitary Sewer System | | | | |
| Road/Street Condition | | | | |
| Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure | | | | |
| Public Transit | | | | |
| Freight Transportation (Rail) | | | | |
| Passenger Air Service | | | | |
| Electrical Service | | | | |
| Natural Gas/Propane Service | | | | |
| Cable Service | | | | |
| Broadband Service | | | | |
| Cell Phone Service | | | | |
| Outdoor Park/Recreation Facilities | | | | |
| Indoor Recreation Facilities | | | | |
| Community Center/Meeting Facilities | | | | |
| Senior Centers | | | | |
| Law Enforcement Facilities Or Equipment | | | | |
| Fire Protection Facilities/Equipment | | | | |
| Health Care Facilities/Accessibility | | | | |
| County/Community Web Page | | | | |

6. Please list three specific community/economic development projects or opportunities that should be addressed over the next five years.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

7. Over the next 12 to 36 months, will you need assistance from the First District in any of the following technical services?

| | Yes | No | Maybe |
|---|-----|----|-------|
| Annexation Studies | | | |
| Business Consulting | | | |
| Capital Improvement Planning | | | |
| Census/Demographic Information | | | |
| Comprehensive Land Use Plan Development | | | |
| Disaster Mitigation/Emergency Planning | | | |
| Environmental Reviews/Assessments | | | |
| Geographic Information System Assistance (Map Creation, Webhosting, Site Analysis, Rural Addressing, Etc) | | | |
| Grant Administration | | | |
| Grant Writing | | | |
| Grants.Gov Registration | | | |
| Housing Needs Analysis | | | |
| Low Interest Loans For Business Creation/Expansion | | | |
| Nuisance Ordinance Development | | | |
| Personnel Policy/Human Resource Assistance | | | |
| Recreational Facility Planning | | | |
| SDGOED Certified Ready Site Analysis | | | |
| Strategic Planning | | | |
| Subdivision/Development Site Review | | | |
| Survey And Survey Analysis | | | |
| Tax Increment Financing | | | |
| Utility Rate Analysis | | | |
| Zoning Administration Assistance | | | |
| Zoning Ordinance Development | | | |
| Other? | | | |

3. How do the following economic factors compare to five years ago?

| | Worse | Same | Better |
|--|-------|------|--------|
| My employer's economic circumstances | | | |
| My household's economic circumstances | | | |
| My business' economic circumstances | | | |
| My community/county's economic circumstances | | | |

4. Five years from now, do you believe your economy will decline, stay the same or improve?

Improve
 Stay the Same
 Decline

5. In no particular order, which of the following do you view as the top five economic/community development priorities for your community/county over the next three to five years? (Please mark five)

- Access to technical assistance and planning for community/economic development
- Attracting new companies and/or workers
- Attracting/retaining youth and young families
- Developing land and/or buildings for industrial and business parks
- Developing manufacturing businesses
- Developing retail/service businesses
- Developing/promoting Tourism
- Diversifying the economy
- Enhancing environmental protection
- Expanding opportunities for value-added agricultural development
- Forming regional partnerships for economic development purposes
- Growing existing local companies
- Helping entrepreneurs start new companies
- Improving access to capital for businesses
- Improving access and availability of affordable housing
- Improving access to quality healthcare
- Improving education systems
- Improving government cooperation
- Improving workforce skills (Work force education and training capabilities)
- Improving public infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.)
- Improving telecommunications (Broadband, cell phone, etc.)
- Investing in renewable energy projects
- Marketing & promotion of the community/region
- Quality of life enhancements
- Other _____